



# RENNER ROUND-UP

A Renner PTA Publication

Volume XVI, Issue 1

Summer 2009

## Mission

The mission of Renner Middle School, a shared responsibility of home, school and community, is to provide education which nurtures, inspires and challenges students in their uniqueness, preparing them to be contributing members of society.

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**Renner Round-Up** is published seven times a year by the Renner PTA.

5701 W. Parker  
Plano, TX 75093

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**Bill McLaughlin**

PTA President :  
**Carolyn Keeter**

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**Allison Choucair**

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**Justina Cox**

## Renner Back-To-School Schedule Pick-Up

Mark your calendars now for Schedule Pick-Up to be held in the Renner gyms on Thursday August 13th and Friday August 14th. If you have children in different grade levels, you will need to attend each registration at the designated time for their grade level.

### 6th Grade

**Thursday, August 13th, 9am - 12pm**

### 7th Grade

**Thursday, August 13th, 1pm - 4pm**

### 8th Grade

**Friday, August 14th, 9am - 12pm**

### 6th, 7th and 8th Students New to PISD

**Friday, August 14th, 1pm - 4pm**

Come pick up your child's schedule, purchase all necessary school supplies, check out the new Spirit Wear and Yard Signs, join the Renner PTA, purchase a school calendar and sign up as a school volunteer! All of your back-to-school needs can be met as you browse the conveniently organized stations throughout the gyms. **These are tax-free purchase days as well!**

**Please note : Emergency Cards must be turned in at registration in order to get schedules.**

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, contact Jill Van Mater at [volunteers@rennerpta.org](mailto:volunteers@rennerpta.org).

## August - October 2009 Calendar

### August

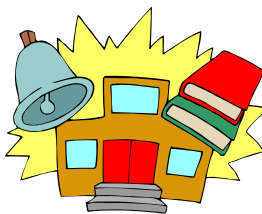
- 13 6th Grade Schedule Pick-Up, 9am - 12pm
- 13 7th Grade Schedule Pick-Up, 1 - 4pm
- 14 8th Grade Schedule Pick-Up, 9am - 12pm
- 14 6th, 7th and 8th **Students New to PISD**, 1 - 4pm
- 17 Teachers Begin
- 20 6th Grade Open House, 6:30 - 8pm
- 24 First Day of Classes  
Welcome Back Coffee & PTA General Meeting, 9:15am, Library

### September

- 7 Labor Day - Student/Teacher Holiday
- 8 Individual School Pictures
- 10 Renner Open House, 6:30 - 8pm
- 15 Principal's Coffee - 6th Grade Parents, 9:30am
- 25 Renner Social - 6th Grade 6 - 7:15pm  
7th & 8th Grades 7:30 - 8:45pm

### October

- 1 Teacher Treats  
End of First 6 Weeks
- 9 Report Cards
- 13 Principal's Coffee - All Parents, 9:30am
- 16 Parent/Teacher Conferences - Student Holiday



## **Sixth Grade Open House & Locker Assignments**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students and Parents**  
**Thursday, August 20, 2008**  
**6:30 – 8:00 pm**

**Come meet your teachers, locate your classrooms,  
and receive your locker assignment.**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

You must bring your schedule with you in order to be assigned a locker. Bring your schedule to your 3<sup>rd</sup> period advisory teacher. At that time, you will be assigned a locker and combination code. You may bring locker caddies or locker mates, but please do not bring school supplies.

## **Renner PTA Meeting and Welcome Back Coffee**

**Monday, August 24th**  
**9:15 am**  
**Renner Library**



Catch up with friends, meet new ones and enjoy a cup of coffee and delicious breakfast snacks while learning about upcoming activities at Renner during our Welcome Back Coffee and PTA Meeting on the first day of school, Monday, August 24th. Join us in the Library at 9:15am to hear **Renner Principal Bill McLaughlin** and **PISD Superintendent Dr. Doug Otto** discuss recent happenings and initiatives at both the district and school levels.

**Hope to see you there!**



## The Principal's Column

By Bill McLaughlin, Renner Middle School Principal

The summer edition of the Renner Round Up is usually an indicator that the beginning of school is right around the corner. While you enjoy the remaining lazy days of summer, we are looking forward to the return of all our kids to Renner. Shifting gears from extended bed times, sleeping in late, and swimming to the schedule and work that comes with starting school requires preparation. Helping your child get ready for the transition back to school will put them on track to succeed from the first day. With this in mind I have included some tips for getting kids ready for school. While it may not be as engaging as your summer novels, it is definitely important information for your kids.

- **Sleep**: Even middle school students still need at least 8 hours sleep to be at their best for school. Slowly moving those bedtimes back to normal will help them get out of bed in time for our 8:30am start time. For those of you with children that sleep past 10am every day in the summer, you may want to start earlier.
- **Student Involvement**: Student involvement is definitely one issue that I feel strongly about for middle school students. Our students need to be involved in something productive outside of their school day. What they will choose to be involved in will depend on their interests and abilities. It doesn't matter if the activity is a club, youth group, sports, music, theater, dance, etc. What does matter is that your child is able to be successful in something positive outside of the school day. School achievement is linked to a child's involvement in activities. During their 3 years at Renner, I would love for your child to find something that gets them involved in their school. Talk with your child about getting involved.
- **Parental Involvement**: Research also shows that students with parents who are involved in their education have higher achievement. You can stay involved by volunteering with our PTA, checking your child's agenda and homework, attend their activities, and getting to know their friends. Finally, reinforce the importance of school and the need to be the best student they can be.
- **Independence and Responsibility**: Middle School is a time that our kids really begin asserting their need for independence. As parents



## The Principal's Column, continued

By Bill McLaughlin, Renner Middle School Principal

and educators, we need to allow our children to gain some independence while they begin to accept more responsibility. With independence comes greater expectations that they will demonstrate the responsibility needed to be successful.

- **Overcoming Obstacles:** As we can all remember from our own experience in middle school, this age can be a great and terrible time all at once. Middle School students are insecure and can see even the smallest of problems as catastrophic. Our kids will make mistakes and will face some bumps in the road during their teenage years. Be there to support them, give advice, and help your child to work through the situation. Many times they can solve their own problems with a little bit of encouragement and advice.

- **Goal Setting:** Use the weeks before the start of school to communicate your expectations for the upcoming school year and have your child set attainable goals for the year which will help in the transition back to school. Each year is a fresh start, and setting goals gives your child something to work toward. Hold your child to high standards and don't doubt that they can exceed their goals.

These are just a few thoughts on the transition back to school. I really am excited to have our students back in the classrooms. I look forward to meeting our new families at Schedule Pick-Up and at the Back to School Coffee on the first day of school in the library.

Bill McLaughlin  
Renner Middle School Principal





# The President's Column

By Carolyn Keeter, 2008-2009 Renner PTA President

I hope that you and your family are all having a wonderful summer break with lots of time to relax and enjoying some down time before the school year begins.

The 2009-2010 Renner PTA Board is already planning many activities and programs for the upcoming school year. This newsletter is full of information about volunteering, registration, open houses, and other ways you can make a difference in the lives of the students and staff at Renner. Middle school students still need you, even though they may not think or act like they do. Without your help we would be just another ordinary school instead of an exceptional one.

Please plan to attend and volunteer your time at Summer Registration. Mark your calendars for Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup> for 6<sup>th</sup> graders from 9:00 am - 12:00pm, Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup> for 7<sup>th</sup> graders from 1:00pm - 4:00pm, Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup> for 8<sup>th</sup> graders from 9:00am - 12:00pm and all students new to PISD will be from 1:00pm - 4:00pm on Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. We really need your help to make this a successful event. If you are interested in volunteering at registration or any activities at school during the school year, please contact **Jill Van Mater** at [volunteers@rennerpta.org](mailto:volunteers@rennerpta.org) or (972) 781-0916. Please remember to fill out your new criminal background check online starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. You can access this form on the PISD website ([www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu)).





## The President's Column, continued

By Carolyn Keeter, 2008-2009 Renner PTA President

The Renner PTA invites each of you to our Welcome Back Coffee on the first day of school, Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am in the Renner Library. The Renner Principal, **Bill McLaughlin**, and **Dr. Doug Otto**, Superintendent of Plano Independent School District, will be speaking and answering questions.

Below are all the areas at Renner that will need parent involvement for a very successful 2009-2010 school year for Renner. Thank you for taking the time to review the list below and find your place to get plugged in at Renner. Enjoy the rest of your summer. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at [president@rennerpta.org](mailto:president@rennerpta.org).

- Book Fair
- Box Tops
- Copy Volunteers
- Counselors' Office Volunteers
- Cultural Events
- Directory Advertising
- Environmental and Recycling Programs
- Library Volunteers
- Photographing for the Yearbook and Scrapbook
- Reaching Out at Renner (helping the less fortunate)
- Reflections
- SAGE
- School Registration
- School Store Volunteers
- Spirit Wear Sales
- Staff/Team Luncheons
- Student Socials
- Teacher Appreciation – Birthday Cakes, Casseroles,  
Teacher Treats,  
Teacher Appreciation Week
- Year Signs and Decal Sales

Carolyn Keeter  
Renner PTA President 2009-2010



## Get Involved at Renner!

Your opportunity to participate and be involved at your child's school begins by volunteering at Summer Registration and Schedule Pick-Up. Your help is needed on Thursday, August 13th and Friday, August 14th.

We need volunteers in many areas from spirit wear, yard signs, and volunteer table, to handing out schedules and lunch codes. We will also need 8<sup>th</sup> graders to give tours to the 6<sup>th</sup> graders during their registration time. If you wish, you may work the shift of your child's grade level. During this time you can register your own child, catch up with old friends, and meet new friends.

Please contact Jill Van Mater at (972) 781-0916 or [volunteers@rennerpta.org](mailto:volunteers@rennerpta.org) to sign up. Your presence will contribute to a wonderful experience for all.

If you are unable to help during registration, don't worry. There are many volunteer areas available throughout the school year. You will have an opportunity to sign up for one of them at Registration.

To volunteer at Renner, you must complete a Criminal History Check online. If you have already registered once online for the Criminal History Check, you may update your information for the coming year on or after July 1. **This is mandatory for all PISD volunteers. You are encouraged to complete the online process at [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu) early so you that are cleared and eligible to volunteer the first week of the new school year.**

Your service to Renner Middle School is one of the best gifts you can give your child. We look forward to meeting and working with all of you in creating a successful 2009-2010 year for our children, teachers, school staff, and ourselves.

### Where is my Emergency Form?

Your emergency form will be mailed to you this summer. You must bring this form with you to Schedule Pick-Up in order to pick up your schedule. If you forget it or never got one, you can get a copy of it in the office during Registration.



## Renner Volunteer Opportunities

Each parent can lend support to the students, staff, and administration at Renner as a volunteer in the many programs sponsored by the Renner PTA. Please check all areas that are of interest to you and return this form to the volunteer table at Schedule Pick-Up or to the Renner front office. Contact Jill Van Mater at (972) 781-0916 or email [volunteers@rennerpta.org](mailto:volunteers@rennerpta.org) with any questions you may have.

Parent Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Please check all areas that are of interest to you*

- Book Fair** – Assist with book fairs including set-up, sales, check-out, clean-up, etc.
- Community Outreach** – Assist in collecting and delivering items to the community.
- Copy Room** – Assist with staff copy needs on Wednesdays or Thursdays.
  - Wednesday AM     Thursday PM     Both
- Counselor's Office** – Assist with clerical duties on Wednesday afternoons.
- Environmental Volunteer** – Assist with various environmental programs.
- General Volunteer** – Assist when unexpected needs surface.
- Hospitality/Newcomers** – Assist as a hostess at family social activities.
- Library** – Work shifts, help with inventory & Reach for the Stars Program.
- Nurse's Office** – Assist Nurse when school screenings take place.
- Reflections** – Assist with Reflections Art Program in October.
- School Store** – Sell school supplies in the cafeteria during lunch.
  - Monday     Tuesday     Wednesday     Thursday     Friday
- Science Fair** – Assist with science fair in January.
- Student Directory** – Assist with data entry, proofreading, and/or distribution of the student directory.
- Student Socials** – Assist with decorations, food preparation, or as a chaperone.
- Teacher Appreciation** – (Check any or all of the following areas)
  - Birthday Cakes     Casseroles     Teacher Treats
  - Staff Luncheons     Teacher Appreciation Week
- Yearbook** – Assist in taking photos at Renner events.

A *new* **CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK** filled out ONLINE at [WWW.PISD.EDU](http://WWW.PISD.EDU) is MANDATORY for all volunteers. THANK YOU for volunteering your time and talents at Renner Middle School!

## **Lots of Opportunities to Volunteer at Renner!...**

### **Summer Help Needed in Counselors' Office!**

*Do you have a few hours to spare before school starts? On August 6th, 7th, and 10th, the counselors need help registering new students. Volunteers are needed to help make copies, file, and organize. Shifts are flexible each day between 9am - 12pm and from 1 - 3pm. If you have a few hours to help, your time would be greatly appreciated. This would also be a great way for the high school kids to earn National Honor Society hours. To volunteer, please contact Terri Perkins at (972) 378-1392 or [office@rennerpta.org](mailto:office@rennerpta.org).*

### **Calling All 8th Graders!**

So now you are the veterans at Renner! How would you like to give tours of Renner to the incoming 6th graders during Registration this summer? 6th grade registration is on Thursday, August 13th from 9am - 12pm. Contact Jill Van Mater at [volunteers@rennerpta.org](mailto:volunteers@rennerpta.org) if you would like to show the new guys around.



### **Volunteer during Renner Lunches!**

The Renner School Store will be open starting on the first day of school! The school store is located in the Renner cafeteria and volunteers are needed to sell school supplies and spirit wear to the students during their lunch breaks. Shifts last from 10:45am - 1:00pm and two volunteers are needed per school day. If you are interested in volunteering for this fun job which offers direct interaction with the kids, either sign up at Registration (look for the School Store table) or email Michelle Chaiken at [storeschedule@rennerpta.org](mailto:storeschedule@rennerpta.org) to be included on the distribution list for volunteers.

## **COPY & OFFICE Volunteers Needed!**

*Do you want to get involved at Renner this year?*

Become an office volunteer in the Counselors' Office or be a copy mom. Sign up now to guarantee your time slot! Volunteers will be needed in the copy room on Wednesday mornings from 9am - 12pm and Thursdays from 12 - 3pm. Help will also be needed in the Counselors' Office from 1:45 - 2:45pm on Wednesdays. *Please know that even a few hours of your time can make a tremendous difference!* For more information or to volunteer, contact Terri Perkins at (972) 378-1392 or [office@rennerpta.org](mailto:office@rennerpta.org).



### **Want to Help with the Renner Directory?**

Everyone wants a Renner directory!! We need your help to produce a Renner Student Directory that is accurate and timely for the next school year. Opportunities for volunteers include:

- Helping at Renner Registration on August 13th and August 14th. Volunteers will be needed to collect directory information from parents at Registration. We'll have 2 shifts from 9am - 12pm and 1 - 4pm each day.
- Reviewing and Correcting of data collected.
- Proofreading of directory information in September/early October in your home.
- Directory sorting and distribution at Renner in October.

Please email [volunteers@rennerpta.org](mailto:volunteers@rennerpta.org) if you wish to volunteer or [directory@rennerpta.org](mailto:directory@rennerpta.org) if you have specific questions about the directory.

# Teacher Appreciation 2009-2010

The Teacher Appreciation Team is gearing up for a fantastic year of pampering our wonderful team of teachers and staff. If you would be interested in being part of any of our activities, we would love to have your help. Here is what we have fun doing throughout the year:

- Back-to-school Luncheon (August 21st)
- Teacher Treats at the end of each grading period
- Team Luncheons
- Home-baked Birthday Cakes
- Winter Luncheon (December 11th)
- Casserole Day (May 5th)
- Teacher Appreciation Week (May 3rd-7th)

If you enjoy showing a Texas-sized thank you to our teachers and staff, please sign up at Registration or contact the committee member in that area and let them know of your interest.

**Katherine Sigrist**

Casserole coordinator  
casserole@rennerpta.org

**Jacque Delkus**

Birthday Cake coordinator  
birthdays@rennerpta.org

**Jenny Craig**

Teacher Treats Coordinator  
treats@rennerpta.org

**Susie Learmont – 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

Team Luncheon coordinator  
luncheon8@rennerpta.org

**Michelle Adams – 7<sup>th</sup> grade**

Team Luncheon coordinator  
luncheon7@rennerpta.org

**Lori Gropper – 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

Team Luncheon coordinator  
luncheon6@rennerpta.org

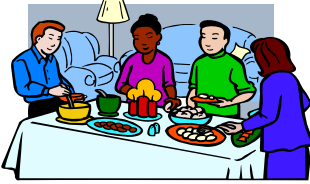
**Mary Kay Drury**

Teacher Appreciation chair  
appreciation@rennerpta.org



## **Teacher Treats say Thank You!**

**by Becky Tanoury and Jenny Craig**



Renner Teacher Treats are a great and easy way that we say “thanks” to all the terrific teachers and staff at Renner. Teacher Treats are donated by the Renner PTA and a group of incredible volunteers at the end of each grading period or every six weeks. The treats can be homemade or store bought. Treats can be sweet (cookies, brownies, cupcakes, coffee cakes), salty (chips and dips, pretzels, crackers, meat and cheese), or healthy (fruit, veggie trays). The teachers love to have a wide variety.

It is so easy to participate. Just drop off your treat at the front office by 8:30am labeled “Teacher Treats”, and we will take it from there. If you can use disposable containers, that would be best. But if you leave a serving dish you need returned, just put your name on the bottom and we will wash it and leave it at the front desk by the end of the day for you to pick up. You may also send in your treat with your student as they come to school in the morning. Just ask them to drop it off in the office. We will take it from there. We decorate the Teachers Lounge based on the season and create a yummy-looking spread with your donated treats. We will also display the names of the team members who participate each time.

You do not have to participate every six weeks, just whenever is convenient for your schedule. We will send out an email looking for volunteers a week before the upcoming treat day. Just respond to let us know you are bringing something and what it might be. As you can imagine, it takes a lot of treats to feed over 110 teachers and staff!

If you are interested in joining the Teacher Treats Team for the upcoming school year, sign-ups will be held at Registration. Just look for our sign-up sheet and poster at the Volunteer Table. We would love to have your help. We can’t wait to see all those yummy treats! If you have any questions please feel free to contact either Jenny Craig or Becky Tanoury at [treats@rennerpta.org](mailto:treats@rennerpta.org).

## Staff/Team Luncheon Volunteers Needed!

If you are looking for an opportunity to show your child's team how much you appreciate them, we have an activity for you! The PTA will host a luncheon for each grade level hall and staff one time throughout the school year. We are in need of many volunteers and donations to make this a fun and enjoyable event for the staff and teams.

**The areas you may assist are:**

- **Hall/Staff Luncheon coordinator/assistant coordinator**
- **Luncheon volunteer**
- **Classroom volunteer during luncheon**
- **Donation of food or resources**

If your child is involved in other areas in the school, such as Special Ed, Choir, Sports, etc, you may indicate your interest in helping in these areas too. The luncheons are a great way to say THANK YOU to our wonderful Renner teachers and staff, so please consider being a part of these events.

Contact your grade level luncheon coordinator to get involved!

Lori Gropper 6<sup>th</sup> grade [luncheon6@rennerpta.org](mailto:luncheon6@rennerpta.org) or 214-477-5467

Michelle Adams 7<sup>th</sup> grade [luncheon7@rennerpta.org](mailto:luncheon7@rennerpta.org) or 214-418-2500

Susie Learmont 8<sup>th</sup> grade [luncheon8@rennerpta.org](mailto:luncheon8@rennerpta.org) or 972-978-4032

## Mark Your Calendars for the Fall Social!



**The Renner Mustang's Fall Social**

**Friday, September 25th**

**6th Grade 6:00 - 7:15pm**

**7th & 8th Grades 7:30 - 8:45pm**

Plans are still being finalized, but we hope to see you all there.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer,  
please contact Holly Castora at [socials@rennerpta.org](mailto:socials@rennerpta.org).

## The Renner PTA Wants You!

The Renner PTA wants you to be a part of another great year of supporting our students, families and staff!



The Renner PTA invites all parents and staff to join the Renner PTA this year. Your support is important to us, and 100% participation will help ensure that we can provide Renner students and their families with programs, information, and opportunities for a great year and even better years ahead. PTA Membership also includes a copy of the Renner Student Directory. You can join the PTA at Registration on August 13th and 14th. Cost of membership is:

One Adult Membership	\$15
Two Adult Membership	\$20
Additional Student Directories	\$ 5

The PTA Membership fees are yearly and do include your dues for the Texas PTA and the National PTA as well as dues for the Renner PTA. These dues are one of the main sources of income for our PTA. Also, please let us know if you are a Texas PTA Life Member and would like to claim this at Renner. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Myers, VP - Membership, at [membership@rennerpta.org](mailto:membership@rennerpta.org) or (972) 473-2440.

If you are not able to join the Renner PTA at Registration, you can pick up a form in the front office or the counselor's office to complete. You are always welcome to join the PTA!

Thank you to the more than 1,300 parents and staff that joined the Renner PTA last year.

For over 100 years, national and local PTAs have diligently worked to promote the welfare and protection of our children and youth. PTA has become the largest volunteer child advocacy group in America. We are proud to be a part of the PTA and want to make a difference in the education and quality of life for our children. The Renner PTA wants you to be a part of this exciting year!

## Prepack School Supplies for 2009-2010

All the school supplies your student will need will be available at Registration from the Renner PTA! We will again be offering the pre-packs which are filled with the necessary school supplies requested by the Renner teaching teams. By purchasing your pre-packs at Registration, not only are you saving time and money on your supplies, but you are helping to support the wonderful PTA programs we offer your children.

Prices for the 2009-010 year are:

6th grade: \$60

7th grade: \$65

8th grade: \$55



Please note that these prices do not include sales tax. Another benefit of purchasing your supplies at Registration is that you will not be charged sales tax on that day.

This year 6th and 7th grades will be required to have a morning and afternoon binder. The teachers have requested the Mead 2" Fivestar Zippered Binder. These will be included in the pre-packs, but will also be available for sale individually.

In addition to the pre-packaged supplies, students will need to purchase other supplies not included in these packs including required reading books for all grades. These supplies and books would be for their electives as well as some of their core classes. Examples would be Band, Choir, Orchestra, Theater, Speech, French, Spanish, Honors English, PACE, and more! We will have all of these supplies and books available for sale in addition to the pre-packs.

Just for fun, we'll also offer locker mirrors, shelving and some other decorative items to make your locker at Renner more personalized.

A list of school supplies for the 2009 - 2010 year can be found on the Renner website at <http://k-12.pisd.edu/schools/renner/index.htm>.

If you are interested in volunteering to work in the school store, we'd love to have you! Please sign up on the volunteer interest form or at the School Store Table at Registration.

If you have any questions regarding school supplies, please contact Trish Donaldson at [store@rennerpta.org](mailto:store@rennerpta.org) or (972) 378-5930.

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## Renner Mustang Pride!



Show your Renner Spirit and support of your child by purchasing a decal for your car window....\$12.00 each!



You can also purchase a Renner Sport & Activity Spirit Sign for your yard.... \$40.00 each!



“Be cool” with the Renner/Shepton Letter Jacket. These are back and a must have!



Purchase now and your child will have their winter coat covered....with patches of their accomplishments throughout

Renner and then Shepton. Jackets start at \$125.00 & patches are sold separately.

**Stop by our table at Summer Registration to place your order for any of these items.**

## Traffic Safety



I hope everyone is enjoying summer! For those returning to Renner in August, you should already be aware of the traffic patterns when dropping off and picking up your child. For those of you who are new to Renner, below is a quick overview so you will not feel overwhelmed on the first day of school.

- First, please remember to travel *very slowly*. Children sometimes dart out between cars and you might not see them right away. Allow yourself plenty of time to stop. Watch out for students and put their safety first.
- Be courteous at all times.
- Be patient; allow time for delays.
- Teach your child to use the crosswalks.
- The speed limit on Parker is **20mph** from 8-8:45am & 3:15-4:00pm.
- When you turn on the main north/south road from Parker heading towards Renner, be aware that this is a **ONE-WAY** road going north at all times. When you reach the stop sign, it is a ONE-WAY road when you are heading west (from the main entrance) and a TWO-WAY road when heading east (from the main entrance.)
- Children who ride their bicycles to school should wear helmets!

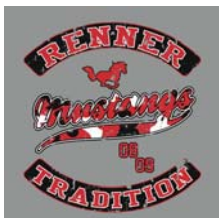
**During Registration, we will be accepting donations to pay for our morning traffic officer. We have been very fortunate to have Officer Eldridge directing traffic. In order to continue having his assistance, we need to raise approximately \$10,000. We have raised these funds in prior years and are hopeful that with everyone's help, we will resume his invaluable service. At Registration, you can let the cashiers know that you would like to add your donation to your total purchases.**



If you have any questions, please contact Julie Brown at (972) 403-7467 or [safety@rennerpta.org](mailto:safety@rennerpta.org).

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## Get Your Spirit Wear at Registration!!



### Show your Mustang Pride! Buy Renner Spirit Wear!

Stop by the Spirit Wear tables at Registration. We will have t-shirts, shorts, and sweatshirts available in all sizes. We'll also have everything you need for PE including our Renner drawstring gym bags!

Volunteers are needed to help with the Spirit Wear tables at Registration and to help sell throughout the school year. Our Spirit Wear is available for purchase in the school store during lunch each day. If you are interested in helping, please sign up on the volunteer interest form or contact Kim Brown at (972) 378-0235 or [shirts@rennerpta.org](mailto:shirts@rennerpta.org).

Spirit Wear is a great way to show your school pride and support the PTA. Get yours today!

## Principal's Coffees...

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Principal's coffees:



**Tuesday, September 15th**  
**6th Grade Parents**  
**9:30am**  
**Renner Library**

**Tuesday, October 13th**  
**6th, 7th & 8th Grade Parents**  
**9:30am**  
**Renner Library**

## Don't Be Left Out of the Directory!

The information contained in the Renner Student Directory comes from one source: YOU, the parent! There are several ways you can provide us with that information. **The easiest way will be at Registration.** Be sure to stop by the Student Directory table at Registration and . . .

1. If your family was included in last year's Renner directory, we will have a print-out of that information just for you. You will review it, make changes, sign it, and leave it with us. Very simple!
2. If your family was included in last year's Barksdale, Brinker, Centennial, or Huffman directories, we may have a print-out of that information. If so, simply review it, make changes, and leave it with us. If your family was not in last year's directory, or we do not have a print-out, you will fill out a form at the table, sign it, and leave it with us.

**If you do not attend Registration**, you can obtain a Student Directory Information Form from the office or the Renner PTA website. Fill it out and return it to the school office. We must have a parent's signature authorizing usage of the information.

Remember that you must join the PTA in order to receive a directory. You will receive one with each membership. You can also purchase additional directories for \$5 each if you are a PTA member.

### Missing Registration?

Are you going to be out of town during Registration? There are two things you can do:

1. Have a friend pick up the schedule for you. You must write a note authorizing them to pick it up for you. **MAKE SURE** you give them your emergency form to turn in.
2. When you get back in town, go to the counselors' office and pick up your schedule. This can only be done **AFTER** Registration is over, not before. You must bring your emergency form and turn it in order to get your schedule.

School supplies will be for sale on the first day of school for those who missed Registration.

## **\*Advertise in the Renner Student Directory\***

### **Network your Business and Support our School!**

The Renner Middle School PTA provides a fantastic opportunity for our local businesses and families to market their products and services to all of our Renner Families.

For a nominal fee, you can advertise your business within our Renner PTA School directory. **Approximately 1,500 directories are distributed each year - it is the most frequently used Renner publication available to your company and you for advertising!**

The Renner Directory is a compilation of student / family addresses, teacher / staff rosters, and the calendar of events for the PTA. It is published only one time per school year—in the fall. The directory is circulated among the student body, their families, our corporate sponsors and staff. What great exposure for a very economical price!!

The Renner Student Directory is a publication provided by the Renner PTA and is one of our main fundraisers for the school year. All monies provided by our advertisers will go towards enhancing the quality of life and education for our children!!

#### PRICING:

Back Cover: \$1,500  
Inside Front Cover: \$750  
Inside Back Cover: \$750  
Full Page Interior Ad: \$225  
Half Page Interior Ad: \$125

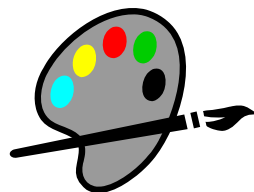
If you are interested in placing an ad, please contact Kathy Grane at [directoryads@rennerpta.org](mailto:directoryads@rennerpta.org) or (214) 418-0344 or (972) 608-1006. Please respond asap as ads must be submitted by September 12th.

Thanks so much for supporting our school and our children!!

# Reflections 2009-2010

## Theme : "Beauty is..."

**Feeling creative this summer?  
It's a great time to get started  
on your Reflections project!**



### Six Areas of Participation

#### Visual Arts

Drawing, Painting, Collage, Printmaking, Fiber, Metalwork & Computer-generated art (Max. Size 24"x30", including a mat, 3/8" thick)

#### Literature

Poetry, Prose, Drama, Short Story (Not to exceed 8 ½"x11")

#### Photography

Single, Collage (including Retouched Photo Work) (Min. 8"x10", Max. 11"x14")

#### Music

Composition with or without lyrics, A cappella, & Instrumental (Max. 5 minutes. Must include written notation)

#### Dance Choreography

Up to three dancers with or without choreography (only one person can be choreographer – Max 5 minutes) Submit on DVD or VHS tape.

#### Film/TV Production

Animation, Narrative, Documentary, Experimental media presented using computer. Submit on DVD, VHS or computer disc (Max. length 5 minutes).

**Questions???** Please contact Renner PTA's Arts in Education chairman, Jill Blackwell, at [reflections@rennerpta.org](mailto:reflections@rennerpta.org) or (214) 663-7633 with any questions you may have..

**\*\*\*Deadline Late October 2009\*\*\***

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## **Community Partners**

# **Earn \$\$\$ for Renner every time you shop with our Partners**

The following is a way you can help support Renner Middle School while you shop for your family:

### **Tom Thumb**

Tom Thumb's Good Neighbor program links your reward card to Renner Middle School. Stop by their Customer Service desk and pick up a registration form. **Renner's number is 6266.** Forms will also be included in your Registration hand-out.

### **Central Market**

Central Market is great for grocery shopping, specialty items, and catering services. You need to use your Central Market Renner Middle School card to get credit at Renner. **Renner's number is 0 41220 17493 5.** Cards will be handed out at Registration.

### **Kroger**

Go to [www.krogerneighbortoneighbor.com](http://www.krogerneighbortoneighbor.com) and pull up the Renner Middle School PTA Barcode. Print a copy of the barcode and take it to Kroger. Present the Renner barcode to your cashier upon checkout with your Kroger Plus card. Information will also be at Registration.

### **Target**

Apply for a Target Visa card and designate Renner Middle School to receive the donation credit. To get a card, or if you already have a card, stop by their customer service counter and add **Renner's number of 100524.**

Renner has a number of programs provided by our PTA. By joining together to support our Community Partners, each of us can raise \$\$\$ for Renner on our shopping trips. These rebated dollars help pay for numerous and valuable PTA programs. Let's go shopping with our Community Partners!

Please contact Sylvia Cosby at [partnerships@rennerpta.org](mailto:partnerships@rennerpta.org) or (972) 378-5712 if you have any questions.



# SAGE

## Special and Gifted Education



As our children head back for another school year, it is important, as parents, to be plugged in as much as possible. This is especially important if this is your first venture into middle school.

Four years ago, the Plano Council of PTA's established the SAGE committee to provide an opportunity for families of students who learn differently to share resources and friendship. SAGE stands for Special and Gifted Education. Why Special Education and Gifted and Talented together? Both groups learn differently. Each group makes up approximately 10% of the student population in PISD, but combined it is a mighty 20%. Some Special Ed Students are gifted - and some gifted students are covered by special ed. Together SAGE creates a dynamic group of families with children who have unique educational needs.

What is SAGE? The primary objective of SAGE is to promote dynamic **communication** between educators and families. It is through cooperation that we help ensure that all diverse learners derive the most from their education. The SAGE website at [www.planopta.org/sage.htm](http://www.planopta.org/sage.htm) is communication central with event calendars, updates, resource links and contact information for local school chairpersons. **Education** is the second objective SAGE provides. SAGE sponsors various classes and seminars throughout the year to provide families and educators the latest information. Lastly, SAGE facilitates the formation of **special interest support groups** so that families can share the information that is most relevant to their needs. SAGE interest groups include, but are not limited to Autism, ADHD, Gifted & Talented, Mental Illness, Tourettes, etc.

But SAGE can't keep in touch unless you provide your contact information! If you or someone you know loves a child who participates in Special Education, PACE (the Gifted & Talented program) or simply struggles with learning differences, this is your chance to come together with others! To get "plugged in", fill out the SAGE Enrollment Form at [www.planopta.org/sage.htm](http://www.planopta.org/sage.htm) and turn it in to the Renner SAGE Chair. Let us know what you need. For more information contact Rose Taper at [sage@rennerpta.org](mailto:sage@rennerpta.org). All information is confidential.

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# Renner Middle School Health Services

## Nurse's Notes...



## FAQ's for Parents

### How do I make arrangements for my child to take medication at school?

If you think your child will need daily or occasional medication at school, you will need to complete the Medication Administration Permission form and bring it and the medication to the school nurse. Medications must be supplied in the original container and not be expired. The school does not provide medication of any kind for students. Every student must have their own supply. Students are not permitted to carry any kind of medication in school. Parents will need to pick up medication at the end of the school year. Forms are available from the nurse or online at: <http://pisd.edu/parents/health/checklist.shtml>

### My child just had a check up and got some new shots. Does the school need to know this?

Yes! Your child's school health record is an official state record that can be a source for you in case anything happens to your or your doctor's record. If your child is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, he or she will soon be required to provide proof of a 10-year tetanus shot booster if not already done. If your child is entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade, hopefully you have already acted on the fact that new vaccines requirements are in place. **7<sup>th</sup> graders will not be permitted to pick up their schedules or start school until all new requirements are met:** Tetanus booster (in the last 5 years), Chicken Pox #2 (unless your child had the disease), and a Meningitis shot. All sixth graders who see their doctors this year should be catching up on the vaccines that are required for entry to 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Save yourself the headache of getting these at the last minute before going to 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

### My child has asthma. Can he or she just carry an inhaler to school when needed?

Asthma medications are like any other medications and must have a parent authorization form. Students with asthma, especially those who expect to carry their own inhaler, must have an action plan on file that is signed by the doctor and the parent AND indicates that the student has been instructed in the proper use of the inhaler. Since students vary in

Continued on page 26

their ability to be responsible for their inhaler, it is always a good idea to have a back-up inhaler in the health office. If your child only needs an inhaler for participating in athletics, the same authorizations are required. It is always a good idea to discuss your child's special medical concerns with the school nurse. Please call anytime at (469) 752-5809. The forms are available online at: <http://pisd.edu/parents/health/checklist.shtml>.

### **When should my child be kept home from school?**

Common sense should prevail. A child with a temperature over 100 should stay home. While the school district publishes a temperature of 100.4 as a cut off for staying home, I will tell you that most adolescents carry a body temperature of below 98. Buy a thermometer and learn how to use it. Really – it makes a difference. Check your child's morning temperature on a couple of healthy days to get an idea of their "normal" temperature. That way you will be able to make a better decision on a sick day. If the only way the temperature stays down is with Tylenol or ibuprofen, then the fever is not really gone. Keep them home a FULL 24 HOURS FEVER FREE before sending them back to school.

Common sense also dictates that a student who cannot keep down normal meals should also stay home. Good nutrition and hydration are essential for learning. A student should be able to eat 2-3 meals of solid food before returning to school after vomiting. They should also plan ahead for lunch since school lunches are not always conducive to upset stomachs.

The Common Cold can defy common sense. Truthfully, a cold can last 7-10 days, and there will probably be some days when the symptoms are so distracting that your child should stay home. If your child has fever, persistent sore throat, persistent cough or persistent runny nose, your child should stay home. Not only will your child not be able to concentrate, but they will be exposing others to their germs. Students with a cold should practice frequent hand washing and coughing into their sleeve. They should plan ahead for tissues and dispose of them properly. Consider sending a mini bottle of hand sanitizer with them.

Common sense meets public health regulations when it comes to communicable disease. There are exclusion policies related to flu, strep throat, pink eye, ring worm, scabies, mono, fifth's disease, staph, and many others. If your child has a diagnosed contagious illness, consult you doctor and the school nurse about when to send your child back to school.

### **Will I be contacted if my child is sick at school?**

The school nurse sees between 30 and 70 students a day. It would be

Continued on page 27

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physically impossible to contact every parent for every visit. The school nurse's role in these cases is to try and determine which students are well enough to remain in school and those that are too ill to benefit from their education. Sometimes, symptoms develop over the course of the day. Parents will not necessarily be contacted regarding minor illness complaints. The nurse will use the tools available to her to assist students to feel more comfortable. If symptoms persist or increase, parents will likely be contacted. You will always speak directly to the school nurse in the case of illness or injury at school.

### **What if my child calls me and says they are sick at school?**

Very simply, tell your child to go to the health office for assessment and then call the school nurse so that we can make the best decision about your child's care together. In many cases when this happens, I have not even seen the student. In other instances, the student may disagree with my belief that they can return to class, but doesn't know how to express that to me directly. I always tell parents that I am not psychic, nor do I have a crystal ball. Sometimes I just don't have all of the information necessary to make the best decision for your child. It is always better if we put our heads together to make these decisions. Students who use their cell phones to contact their parents are violating the school's discipline policy.

As always with any question or concern about your child's health and welfare at school, communication is the key. Sometimes we don't have the full picture, so your input is vital. Before jumping to conclusions or making a decision that will affect your child's education, please contact us so that we can work together to provide a safe and healthy environment for all students.

Judith A. Grace, RN, NCSN • judith.grace@pisd.edu • (469) 752-5809



**PLEASE NOTE:**  
**ALL STUDENTS ENTERING**  
**7<sup>th</sup> GRADE IN AUGUST**  
**MUST MEET THE NEW**  
**IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.**

### **DPT within the last 5 years, Varicella #2, and Meningitis**

If you did not provide this immunization documentation to the nurse before June 5th, you must bring it to Schedule Pick-Up in order for your student to get his or her schedule.

## RENNER ATHLETICS 2009-2010

During the 2009-2010 school year, the Renner athletic program will be scheduled as follows: Eighth grade athletics (boys and girls) will be during 1<sup>st</sup> period. Seventh grade athletics (boys and girls) will be during 8<sup>th</sup> period.

Eighth graders who participate in athletics will be required to BEGIN practice at 7:15am and continue through 1<sup>st</sup> period. Seventh graders participating in athletics will begin during the 8<sup>th</sup> period and continue until 4:45pm.



We will expect 8<sup>th</sup> graders to arrive so they can begin promptly at 7:15am, and we will expect our 7<sup>th</sup> graders to be picked up by 5:00pm. All of our athletes enrolled in the athletic periods will receive their physical education credit. Our Tennis and Track athletes who are not already enrolled in the athletic periods will NOT receive P.E. credit. These teams will not practice during the school day. Tennis will be after school beginning at 3:45pm, and Track will practice before school starting at 7:15am.

Physical forms must be turned in to the coaches before any student is allowed to work out with the team. Please have those forms completed and ready to turn in on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of school. Eighth graders who participated in athletics at Renner last year do not have to redo the physical forms.

We have always enjoyed the wonderful support from our parents and appreciate it more than you know. Please do not hesitate to call with any concerns you may have regarding our athletic program.

Thank you  
Coach Coutermarsh  
Athletic Director  
(469) 752-5899



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# Lady Mustang Athletics 2009-2010

We are excited that your child is interested in becoming a part of the Lady Mustang Athletic Program.

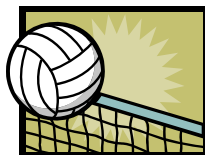
## Coaching Staff:

Heather McGuire - 8<sup>th</sup> Volleyball and Track  
Kelly Brown - 7<sup>th</sup> Volleyball and 8<sup>th</sup> Basketball  
Allie Rogosheske - 7th Basketball and Track  
Cindy Segler - 7th and 8th Tennis

Prior to tryouts, UIL requires all athletes to have a physical and medical history form on file with coaches. Forms can be printed from the UIL website: [http://www.uil.utexas.edu/athletics/forms/pdf/policy/phys\\_eval\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uil.utexas.edu/athletics/forms/pdf/policy/phys_eval_medical.pdf)

## Volleyball Tryouts

August 25<sup>th</sup>-August 28<sup>th</sup>  
(Physicals due August 24<sup>th</sup>)  
8<sup>th</sup> - 7:00-8:15am  
7<sup>th</sup> - 3:45-5:15pm



- Athletes must sign up with coaches and receive a tryout number on the first day of school.
- Athletes will wear black shorts/sweats and a white t-shirt with their tryout number on the front and back.
- Athletes must attend all 4 tryout sessions.
- All sessions are closed.

## Fall Tennis

Tryouts will be the second week of school. Physical and medical history forms are due the first day of school to coach Segler.

## Basketball Tryouts



November 10<sup>th</sup>-November 13<sup>th</sup>  
(Physicals are due November 2<sup>nd</sup>)  
8<sup>th</sup> - 7:00-8:15am  
7<sup>th</sup> - 3:45-5:15pm

- Athletes must sign up with coaches and receive a tryout number on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Athletes will wear black shorts/sweats and a white t-shirt with their tryout number on the front and back.
- Athletes must attend all 4 tryout sessions.
- All sessions are closed.

## **Teachers' Summer Notes:**

### **7th Grade English:**

We hope you are enjoying your summer break! Those school bells will be ringing again before we know it, so here are some tips for getting a fantastic start in English 7 for the 2009-2010 school year. Take time out of your busy activities to read! Set aside a quiet time each day and discuss your selections with an adult. Talking about what we read often helps with summarizing and main ideas.

7th grade will begin the year with a writing diagnostic. Journal writing will keep you in touch with the basic writing skills needed for this task. Review any writing tips you saved from 6th grade. Buy your supplies and have them the first day of school. Your teachers will help you to set up your binders for each class and being organized is a must for the year.

Last of all come with a positive enthusiastic attitude! You will find 7th grade to be one of your best years in middle school. See you soon!

### **7th Grade History:**

In Texas history classes, students will begin their studies with a look at the geography, Native Americans, and exploration of Texas. The lessons in this unit are organized to help students understand the effects of geography on the development of Texas. Our year begins with an emphasis on the regions of Texas and their characteristics. Native Americans and their relationship to geography follow. Explorers from Europe and the first Spanish settlers are studied along with Spanish influences on Texas lifestyles. The main skill focus is communication (writing and reading). Primary sources are used to teach analysis of documents. Also, students will have the opportunity to write poetry, essays, and formal letters.

### **8th Grade Science and Honors Science:**

8th graders have a great year ahead of them! We will begin studying waves and making a concept map of the electromagnetic spectrum using the software program Inspiration. We will be exploring the Universe by discussing its formation, examining life cycles of stars and the moon's importance to Earth, discussing lenses, as well as exploring the important discoveries made by famous scientists such as Galileo, Copernicus, and Aristotle.

For Honors Classes, check for the "Science Project and Science Fair Handbook" which lists intermediary due dates and explains the process of the independent research project in detail.

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## Technology Recycling



**Help Renner Recycle  
Cell Phones Laptops, PDAs  
& HP Cartridges for \$\$\$!**

Thank you to everyone who has sent used cell phones, PDAs and HP ink jet cartridges to Renner for recycling! We will continue to recycle these items throughout the school year. So keep Renner in mind when you replace or upgrade your technology.

### HP Ink and Laser Jet Cartridges

Send your empty HP ink and laser jet cartridges placed in a plastic bag/baggie. Your student can put them in the designated container in the CTA Office (by the rotunda). For each empty HP inkjet cartridge we recycle, Renner receives **\$\$\$**. (Laserjet prices vary).

### Cell Phones, Laptops and PDAs

We are also asking you to recycle your used cell phone, laptop and PDA through the school. When you upgrade, send your old item in a plastic bag to school. Renner will make money for everything we recycle. Visit <http://cartridgesforkids.com/pricesframe.html> to see what your item is worth in this recycle program!

**Questions? Contact Tom Pittman, Renner CTA, at (469) 752-5806.**

## Want to Know What's Going on at Renner?



The ACTIVITY LINE at Renner is updated every Sunday night during the school year. It is a great resource if you need to know the activities or the time of an event. To access the activity line, just call the Renner number (469) 752-5800 and push #9.



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